

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating multiplayer gaming over a computer network, the system comprising:

a client program running on a terminal that automatically detects when selected individuals are playing one or more multiplayer games on the computer network, and notifies a user of the games and the selected individuals playing the games;

wherein the client program is further adapted to search for and detect when one or more of the games are running on the terminal.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the client program is further adapted to allow the user to join an individual in a game by running an instance of the game on the terminal and connecting the terminal to a location hosting the game.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2 wherein the client program further generates a user interface that allows the user to join the individual in a game by selecting an icon.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2 wherein the client program is further adapted to communicate data identifying the running games and the user over the computer network for receipt by selected individuals.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4 further comprising:

a second program that determines a connection status of the running games and communicates the connection status to the client program;

wherein the client program is further adapted to communicate the connection status of the running games over the computer network for receipt by the selected individuals.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5 wherein the second program comprises a layered service provider program.

7. (Original) The system of claim 5 wherein the connection status comprises an IP address hosting a corresponding game.

8. (Original) The system of claim 5 further comprising:
one or more servers adapted to receive the data and connection status and to communicate the data and connection status to the selected individuals.

9. (Original) The system of claim 2 wherein the program is further adapted to allow the user to send and receive instant messages to and from selected individuals.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the selected individuals include individuals stored on a friend list created by the user.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the selected individuals include individuals stored on a friend list created by an individual stored on a friend list created by the user.

12. (Currently Amended) A computerized method for facilitating multiplayer games over a computer network, comprising:

searching for and detecting when one or more multiplayer games are running on a user terminal;

detecting when selected individuals are playing one or more of the multiplayer games on the computer network;

notifying a user of the games and selected individuals playing the games; and

allowing the user to join an individual in a game by running an instance of the game on the user terminal and connecting the user terminal to an address hosting the game.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

detecting a connection status of the running games; and

communicating data identifying the user, running games and connection status to the selected individuals over the computer network.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the connection status comprises an IP address hosting a corresponding game.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
allowing the user to send and receive instant messages to and from the selected individuals.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the selected individuals comprise first individuals contained on a list associated with the user.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the selected individuals comprise second individuals included on a list associated with one or more of the first individuals.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method for facilitating multiplayer online gaming, the method comprising:

searching for and detecting when one or more multiplayer games are running on a user terminal;

detecting when selected individuals are playing one or more of the games on the computer network; and

notifying a user of the games and the selected individuals playing the games.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 18 wherein the method further comprises:

allowing the user to join an individual in a game by running an instance of the game on the user terminal and connecting the user terminal to an address hosting the game.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises:

detecting a connection status of the running games; and
communicating data identifying the user, running games and connection status to the selected individuals over the computer network.

21. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the connection status comprises an IP address hosting a corresponding game.

22. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the method further comprises:

allowing the user to send and receive instant messages to and from the selected individuals.

23. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the selected individuals comprise first individuals included on a list associated with the user.

24. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein the selected individuals comprise second individuals included on a list associated with one or more of the first individuals.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)